

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action rejected all presently-pending claims 1-6. Specifically, the Office Action rejected claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Sato (US Patent No. 5,639,158). Moreover, the Office Action rejected claims 4-6 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al. (US Patent No. 5,580,156). Reconsideration and allowance of those claims is respectfully requested.

Response to Objections of Specification, Claim and Drawing

In response thereto, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner of pointing out the informalities.

The spacing of the lines of the specification and claims are amended.

The typing error in claims 3 and 6 are amended.

The term “forested surface” is a typing error, the correct term “frosted surface” is amended to claim 1 (the original claim 2 is added to amended claim 1). And the paragraph [0028] is amended to clearly describe the “frosted surface”.

Figures 1-4 are amended and designated as “Prior Art”.

The “forested surface” is shown in the part 412 of FIG. 8 according to amended paragraph [0028].

It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application. Applicants believe that these amendments place the claims in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections

Response to Claims Rejections under 35 USC§ 102

Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Sato.

For a proper rejection of a claim under 35 USC §102, the cited reference must disclose all elements/features/steps of the claim.

Independent claim 1, as amended, states:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A light source module, comprising:

a printed circuit board, on which a plurality of electrodes are formed;

a plurality of light-emitting diodes disposed on the printed circuit board and electrically coupled together; and

at least one light-collecting column, disposed over the printed circuit board, and covering the light-emitting diodes, wherein the a surface of the light-collecting column has a plurality of first regions and a plurality of second regions, the first regions and the second regions are arranged alternatively on the light-collecting column, wherein a transmittance for the first regions is smaller than a transmittance for the second regions, and the first regions are located above the light-emitting diodes, wherein the first region is a frosted surface.

(Emphasis Added)

The amendment of claim 1 is according to the original claim 2 and paragraph [0028] and no new matter is added.

Independent claim 1 is allowable for at least the reasons that Sato does not disclose, teach, or suggest the features “the first region is a frosted surface.” According to col. 3, lines 44-47 of Sato, it is desirable to select a material with high reflectance for the upper and lower reflectors 4a and 4b. Metal such as aluminum is best suitable because it has high reflectance (about 0.9 when deposited). Therefore, the surface of 4a and 4b can not be a frosted surface to reduce the reflectance. In fact, the function, structure and material of the first region and second region of the application is distinguishable from the reflectors 4a and 4b since the light emitted from the light-emitting diodes directly passes through the first and second region and does not need any reflection from the reflectors 4a and 4b.

The independent claim 3, as amended, includes the limitation of the independent claim 1 and the features “the first region includes a first ejected material and the second region includes a second ejected material.” The first and second ejected materials do not be disclosed, taught and suggested in the whole patent of Sato. Moreover, the function, structure and material of the first region and second region of the application is distinguishable from the reflectors 4a and 4b since the light emitted from the light-emitting diodes directly passes through the first and second region and does not need any reflection from the reflectors 4a and 4b.

Thus, Sato does not anticipate claims 1 and 3. The withdrawal of the rejections and the allowance of claims 1 and 3 are therefore earnestly solicited.

Claim 4 is also rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki.

Independent claim 4, as amended, states:

Claim 4. (currently amended) A light source module, suitable for use in a scanner, comprising:

- a printed circuit board, on which a plurality of electrodes are formed;
- a plurality of light-emitting diodes disposed on the printed circuit board and electrically coupled together;
- at least one light-collecting column, disposed over the printed circuit board, and covering the light-emitting diodes; and
- a plurality of reflection boards, disposed between the light-emitting diodes and the printed circuit board, wherein a distance from a bottom of the light-emitting diodes to the printed circuit board is larger than a distance from a top of the reflection boards to the printed circuit board, so as to enhance a brightness at a region between the light emitting diodes.

(Emphasis Added)

Independent claim 4 is allowable for at least the reasons that Sato or Suzuki does not disclose, teach, or suggest the feature “a distance from a bottom of the light-emitting diodes to the printed circuit board is larger than a distance from a top of the reflection boards to the printed circuit board.” According to FIGS. 1B, 2B and 2C of Sato, the reflectors 4a and 4b are all disposed above the LED 2. According to FIGS. 6, 8(a) and 8(b), the retroreflector 22 is disposed between the LED 13 and the lens 4. Therefore, the application is distinguishable from Sato and Suzuki.

Thus, Sato and Suzuki do not anticipate claim 4. The withdrawal of the rejections and the allowance of claim 4 are therefore earnestly solicited.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1, 3 and 4 patently define over the prior art, and should be allowed. For at

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least the same reasons, the respective dependent claims 5 and 6 patently define over the prior art as well.

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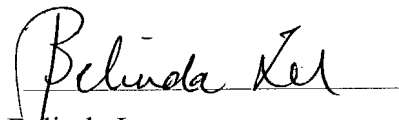
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all pending claims 1-6 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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